

What is claimed is:

1. A tip tool for connecting or disconnecting a tip to an imaging apparatus, comprising:

a tip tool body sized to fit over at least a portion of the tip;

5 a tip holding element disposed in contact with the tip tool body for releasably engaging the tip.

2. The tip tool of claim 1, wherein the tip holding element is disposed within the tip tool body.

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3. The tip tool of claim 1, wherein the tip holding element comprises an O-ring.

4. The tip tool of claim 3, wherein the O-ring is comprised of a polymer.

15 5. The tip tool of claim 4, wherein the polymer is buna-n.

6. The tip tool of claim 1, wherein the tip holding element comprises at least one compressible element.

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7. The tip tool of claim 6, wherein the at least one compressible element comprises at least one arm cantilevered from the tip tool body.

8. The tip tool of claim 6, wherein the at least one compressible element comprises an O-ring.

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9. The tip tool of claim 1, wherein the tip tool body is comprised of a polymer.

10. The tip tool of claim 9, wherein the polymer comprises Delrin®.

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11. The tip tool of claim 7, wherein the at least one arm is comprised of the same material as the tip tool body.

12. The tip tool of claim 1, further comprising a depth set mechanism sized to select the extent to which the tip tool body is fitted over the at least a portion of the tip.

5 13. The tip tool of claim 1, wherein the tip tool is capable of storing the tip when the tip is not connected to the imaging apparatus.

14. The tip tool of claim 1, further comprising identifying indicia disposed at a visible location on the tip tool body.

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15. A tool for connecting or disconnecting an optical tip to one of a borescope or endoscope, comprising:

a cylindrical, hollow body sized to fit over the optical tip;

an O-ring disposed within the body; and

15 at least one compressible arm cantilevered from the body,

wherein the at least one compressible arm is located over the O-ring so that when compressed the arm compresses the O-ring.

20 16. The tool of claim 15, wherein the O-ring is made from buna-n, and the body and the at least one compressible arm are each made from Delrin®.

17. A method for attaching a tip to an imaging apparatus, such as a borescope or endoscope, comprising the steps of:

grasping the tip with a tip tool;

25 manipulating the tip tool so as attach the tip to the imaging apparatus,

wherein the tip tool comprises a tip tool body and at least one tip holding element disposed in contact with the tip tool body for releasably engaging the tip.

30 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of manipulating the tip tool comprises turning the tip tool in a direction selected from the set of directions consisting of: clockwise and counterclockwise.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of manipulating the tip tool comprises pushing the tip tool toward the imaging apparatus.

20. A method for detaching a tip from an imaging apparatus, such as a borescope
5 or endoscope, comprising the steps of:

grasping the tip with a tip tool;
manipulating the tip tool so as detach the tip from the imaging apparatus,
wherein the tip tool comprises a tip tool body and at least one tip holding element
disposed in contact with the tip tool body for releasably engaging the tip.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of manipulating the tip tool comprises turning the tip tool in a direction selected from the set of directions consisting of: clockwise and counterclockwise.

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22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of manipulating the tip tool comprises pulling the tip tool away from the imaging apparatus.